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WILLIAM L. OWENS
23RD DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS,
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515
September 29, 2010

PLEASE RESPOND TO
WASHINGTON OFFICE

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Chairman Daniel R. Elliott III
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

FD 35348

Dear Chairman Elliot,

I am writing today to request action by the Surface Transportation Board with regard to an application filed by CSX railroad with regards to the service it provides to the port of Ogdensburg, NY which is in my district.

It has been reported that Mr. Leonard Kellermann, the director for regional and short line development for CSX has stated that there is no plan on cutting back "service" while at the same time admitting that CSX has filed with the STB a request for a reduction in service.

At the same time Mr. Kellermann states that business has increased in the last year by 7 to 8 percent and that such a reduction in service from five days to two days would have no adverse impact on the community because of demand. These are clearly a series of at least contradictory statements if not outright misrepresentations.

We also learned, CSX did not notify the appropriate local officials and purportedly the comment period has expired.

We would ask the following on behalf of the port of Ogdensburg and the surrounding community: (a) that the comment period be reopened and notification be given to all stakeholders; (b) that a full investigations into the statements by Mr. Kellermann be made to determine what exactly the facts are, (c) that the application to reduce services be denied.

Please advise at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

Bill Owens
Member of Congress